

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend drawing Fig. 6 by deleting reference characters 1A, 4D and 5D at the bottom of Fig. 6 as shown in red on the attached sheet of drawings labeled "Annotated Marked-Up Drawings. Also, attached are drawings sheets labeled "Replacement Sheet" of Figs. 1-8.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated January 24, 2006. In this amendment, the drawings and specification have been amended, Claims 1-18 have been cancelled, Claim 19 has been amended, and new Claims 31-49 have been added. The application now includes Claims 19-21 and 31-49 with Claims 19, 39 and 42 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 3 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reasons noted therein and has required corrected drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d). To comply with this request, attached hereto are new corrected drawings for this application. As discussed above, these drawings sheets of Figs. 1-8 are labeled "Replacement Sheets" and include the changes discussed above to Fig. 6.

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference character 218 not mentioned in the specification. The specification has been amended above in order to change reference character 208 to reference character 218. Thus, it is believed that this objection to the drawings is overcome.

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the specification and Claims 3, 8, 10, 15 and 19, respectively, because he believes that the term "lug" or "lugs" should be replaced with the term "extension" or "extensions". It is believed that the term "lug" or "lugs" is proper in the specification and claims. The use of this term is allowed and also is consistent with the ordinary meaning of the term. For example, Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, lists as one of the meanings of the term lug the following – "an ear-like projection by which a thing is held or supported". Thus, it is believed that this definition further supports the use of the terms lug and lugs in the specification and claims and that such use of these terms is proper. However, if the Examiner still maintains his objection to the use of

the terms in the specification and claims, the Applicants would amend the specification and claims as suggested by the Examiner.

In paragraph 8 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 6 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reid (U.S. Patent No. 860,247); in paragraph 10 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 5, 8, and 11-13 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reid in view of Vignotto et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0062764); in paragraph 11 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 14-18 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reid in view of Daberkoe (U.S. Patent No. 4,699,431); and in paragraph 12 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-11, 14 and 18-21 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vignotto et al. in view of Daberkoe. As discussed above, Claims 1-18 have been cancelled. Thus only the rejection of Claims 19-21 remains and these rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments to the claims.

Claim 19 has been amended in part to recite that:

- 1). the non-cast inner wheel hub portion includes a first axially extending connecting portion which defines a first outer diameter;
- 2) the cast outer wheel hub portion includes a second axially extending connecting portion which defines a second outer diameter, the second axially extending connecting portion of the cast outer wheel hub portion located adjacent and joined to the first axially extending connecting portion of the non-cast inner wheel hub portion; and
- 3). the first outer diameter of the non-cast inner wheel hub portion and the second outer diameter of the cast outer wheel hub portion are equal to one another thereby defining a constant outer diameter circumferentially along the entire axial length of the axially extending connecting portions thereof.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, suggests or discloses such a composite vehicle wheel hub structure as now defined in Claim 19.

Specifically, modifying Vignotto et al. with the teachings of Daberkoe would not result in the “first outer diameter of the non-cast inner wheel hub portion and the second outer diameter of the cast outer wheel hub portion are equal to one another thereby defining a *constant outer diameter circumferentially along the entire axial length of the axially extending connecting portions* thereof, as now recited in Claim 19. (Emphasis added). In Vignotto et al., as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the outer diameter of the inner hub portion 20 and the outer diameter of the outer hub portion 10 is not constant throughout the entire axial length of the connecting portions thereof because the lugs 21 of the portion 20 are biased outwardly and the lugs 23 are biased inwardly. Thus, it is believed that Claim 19, along with dependent Claims 20, 21 and 31-33, are patentable over the cited references.

New Claim 34 includes limitations similar to those of Claim 19. Thus, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 19, it is believed that Claim 34, along with dependent Claims 34-41, are patentable over the cited references.

New Claim 42 is directed to a composite vehicle wheel hub and recites in part that:

- 1). the outer wheel hub portion is *non-rotationally joined* to the inner wheel hub portion; and
- 2). the lugs of the inner wheel hub portion are adapted to be embedded in the outer wheel hub portion to thereby assist in *non-rotationally securing the non-cast inner wheel hub portion and the cast outer wheel hub portion together*. (Emphasis added).

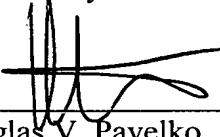
None of the cited references, alone or in combination, suggests or discloses such a composite vehicle wheel hub structure as now defined in Claim 43.

Specifically, modifying Vignotto et al. with the teachings of Daberkoe would not result in the “the outer wheel hub portion being *non-rotationally joined* to the inner wheel hub portion, as now recited in Claim 42. (Emphasis added). In Vignotto et al., as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the inner hub portion 20 can rotate relative to the outer hub portion 10 since the portion 20 is only frictionally retained on the portion 20 by the “resilient tongues” 21 and 23. Thus, it is believed that Claim 43, along with

dependent Claims 44-49, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not believe that the above remarks and amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900 to discuss the application prior to the issuance of an action in this case by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

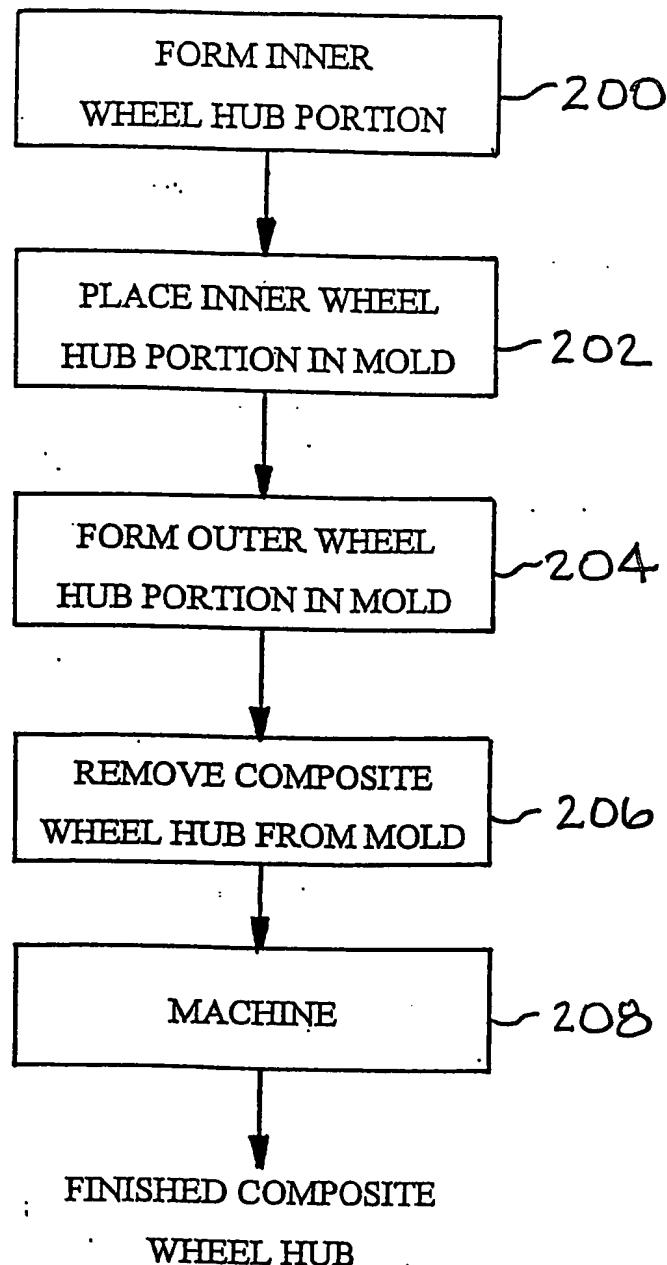


Douglas V. Pavelko
Reg. No. 36,888

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900



ANNOTATED
MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS



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FIG. 6

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